



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's Half Term Letter to Parents

Wednesday 29 May 2024

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families have been able to enjoy the half term break despite the mixed weather so far. I also hope that all of our pupils revising for their GCSEs and A Levels have been able to take some time to rest in preparation for the second batch of exams after half term. I would like to wish all pupils taking public exams over the next few weeks all the very best.

We are continuing to provide pupils with support sessions and with access to revision materials. Revision materials have been made available to pupils via Google Classroom.

Although the last half term was a short one it has certainly been a busy one. Not least in the MFL department where we hosted pupils from La Caousou, in Toulouse, on their return visit and our own pupils have just returned from a trip to Barcelona. At the beginning of May over 50 Grammar pupils successfully completed their DofE Bronze expedition and we were entertained at the beginning of term by three excellent musical events – the choir concert, piano recital and the Swing Band concert all of which included outstanding performances from our pupils. We also held our KS4 Curriculum Evening for Lower Grammar pupils.

Report Card

Pupils in Years 7 -10 and 12 received [electronically] their report cards during the half term break. Pupils in Years 7-9 have been given a progress judgement for the work completed since the start of the Summer term. Years 10 and 12 report cards have their latest summative assessment grade. Please do take the time to look over your child's card and if you, or your child, are concerned about their progress compared to their target grade please do not hesitate to speak to your child's Head of Line.

Parents dropping off and collecting pupils by car

I would like to remind all parents who drop off their children at school or collect them from school of the importance of parking safely. As I am sure you are aware Edge Hill is extremely busy at these times.

It is also important that you are mindful of our neighbours and that you do not stop/park either in or across private entrances, driveways or roads.

I would also like to remind all parents that they should not use the Sacred Heart Church car park for either dropping off or picking up your child. The car park is only for the use of parishioners

visiting the church and I would like to remind all parents that there are now parking restrictions and fines in place for improper use of the church car park.

If at all possible please try to drop off/collect your child a short distance away from the school to avoid congestion.

School Uniform expectations

Thank you to all parents who have ensured that your children are wearing the correct school uniform, not only in school but on their way to and from school. There are however a number of pupils who are wearing incorrect uniform and shoes. I ask that you ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform. This includes formal black shoes.

Some pupils have also been wearing their coat instead of their blazer. This is not allowed and if they are found to be doing so their coat will be confiscated. Coats can be worn over their blazer if there is need to do so however I believe that it will be warm enough during the coming half term that this will not be necessary.

Use of the College's 3g pitch - correct footwear

I must remind parents that all pupils are expected to wear the correct footwear when using the 3G pitch at the College. What this means is that pupils must wear boots with the correct studs and not trainers. I appreciate that the pupils are participating in summer sports however for their safety and to avoid unnecessary wear of the playing surface the correct footwear must be worn.

Pupils were using the correct footwear earlier in the year and must do so after half term. Failure to have the correct footwear will mean that they will not be able to take part in activities on the pitch.

I ask that you support the school with these issues and ensure that your child is wearing their uniform correctly. Please check the School Uniform List [available on the College website] before buying any school uniform. Please also note the details of the Second-Hand Uniform sale being held by the Friends of Wimbledon College [see below].

Friends of Wimbledon College

The FoWC will be having their AGM followed by drinks at the Old Wimbledonians' Club (143 Coombe Lane SW20 0QX) on Thursday 27 June at 7:00pm.

All parents and carers are members of the FoWC. This year the Friends have run the hugely successful International evening, provided refreshments for two open evenings, prize giving, three nights of the school production and the recent swing band concert as well as the uniform sale. We would like to do more!

Some of the more active members will be leaving as their sons finish at the school and we will need more willing volunteers (particularly from lower year groups who are not well represented) to become part of the team. One role that does need filling is the role of Treasurer. If you think you could help support your sons and the school community please come along to meet and have

a chat over a drink with the current committee. Alternatively, contact the committee by email FriendsofWimbledonCollege@gmail.com

Second hand uniform sale

There will be a second-hand uniform sale in the College's main hall on Saturday 15 June from 11:45am to 1:00pm. Volunteers are required for the sale, if you are able to help, do email FriendsofWimbledonCollege@gmail.com

Careers

Boys have had numerous opportunities to learn beyond the classroom this half term. We would like to thank OW, Professor Elliott from Durham University who spoke to Poetry boys about the application to University process and what life is like in a Collegiate University.

All of our Rudiments pupils were given a very important lesson from the London Ambulance Service who taught them how to administer CPR and use a defibrillator, as part of the London Lifesavers Programme. This was a very important lesson and one in which boys engaged with in a mature manner.

The Princes' Trust programme in which 30 boys and 6 volunteers engaged with has now come to an end. We would like to thank the Princes' Trust and the volunteers for the important sessions they delivered on topics such as confidence and making positive first impressions.

Drama

Boys from Rudiments and Figures who are part of the Stage One Drama Club have been hard at work creating material for the annual Merton Arts Share Exhibition. They have chosen to act out and illustrate a Creation story called *The Raven's Journey* for the 2024 theme "Fantastic Journeys". Their work will be on display at the Green Arts Centre and also at Canons House from Friday 12th July until Saturday 24th August for the public to go and enjoy. Please do go and see for yourself!

Rugby

Preseason training

Next September will see a return of Rugby as our major sport and with such an early start to the term our first block of fixtures is on the 7th September. In order to prepare for these fixtures, as per previous years, there will be pre-season sessions running through the last week of the Summer holidays – TUESDAY 27th until FRIDAY 30th.

Further details with exact days will be sent out in due course but every age group from Figures (U12s) – Syntax (U16) will have at least two sessions during the week. Rhetoric (13) and Poetry (12) will have four. Each session will last approximately 90 mins and be a mixture of morning and afternoons.

These sessions are not compulsory but it does greatly benefit the teams cohesion and give them a chance to meet their new coaches, providing your child with an opportunity to demonstrate their talents in preparation for the start of the season. Please make every effort to attend.

Mouthguards

We as a sports department do everything possible to ensure the welfare of those in our care is of the highest standard possible. That is why we are pleased to once again be able to offer all students at Wimbledon College the opportunity to purchase an Instant custom-fit mouthguard from the world's leading manufacturer, OPRO. By using the promo code **Wimbledon10** you'll also receive a 10% discount across all purchases.

To order an instant custom-fit mouthguard please use the following the link;

<https://opro.info/WimbledonCollege>

There are other options/manufacturers available but please remember that having a mouthguard is a compulsory item of equipment for all those taking part in Rugby.

Match day volunteers

As September sees the return of Saturday fixtures at Coombe lane, it will also mean a return of match teas for players and refreshments for spectators. We are always on the lookout for additional help and volunteers, whether it's for every home fixture or just one or two, your generosity is most welcome. Please do contact me on neil.hallett@wimbledoncollege.org.uk if you would be able to assist, in any capacity, and I will put you in touch with the relevant age group organiser.

Fundraising

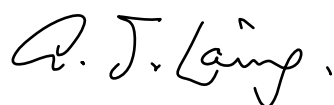
Finally, a huge thank you to all those who helped with raising funds for the Junior Rugby tour to Canada. With your help we absolutely smashed the target set which us a truly unforgettable experience for the students involved but more importantly, we were able to give an even larger amount to our two chosen charities;

- Maggie's, a Royal Marsden charity who provide free expert care and support to cancer patients and their families. <https://www.maggies.org/> and
- The Wooden Spoon Children's rugby charity who fund projects and provide support to vulnerable children and young people across the UK. <https://woodenspoon.org.uk/>

A huge thank you to far too many of you for your generosity, support, participation or/and your donations. It was a humbling experience being able to inform the charities of the amounts raised and enable them both to continue to provide such an invaluable service to our community.

With best wishes,

God bless



Adrian Laing
Headteacher